

BOARD MEETINGS
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

BED
(LOCAL)

Limit on Participation	Audience participation at a Board meeting is limited to the portion of the meeting designated to receive public comment and public testimony in accordance with this policy. At all other times during a Board meeting, the audience shall not enter into discussion or debate on matters being considered by the Board, unless requested by the presiding officer.
Board's Response	Specific factual information or recitation of existing policy may be furnished in response to inquiries, but the Board shall not deliberate or decide regarding any subject that is not included on the agenda posted with notice of the meeting.
Definitions	Public testimony means a person wishes to comment regarding an item on the agenda posted with notice of any open meeting of the Board. Public comment means a person wishes to comment on a matter related to the District's business other than public testimony.
Public Comment	
Regular Meetings	At the monthly regular Board meetings, the Board may allow up to 30 minutes to hear individuals who desire to make comments to the Board that are not related to items on the agenda posted with notice for the monthly regular Board meeting, provided that such individuals follow the procedures and requirements stipulated in this policy.
Special Meetings and Workshops	At all other Board meetings open to the public, including Board workshops and/or work sessions, public participation shall be limited to items on the agenda posted with notice of such meeting, in the form of public testimony. Public comment shall be limited to the monthly regular Board meetings and shall not be allowed at any other Board meeting open to the public.
Public Testimony	Individuals shall be allowed to address the Board regarding an item on the agenda posted with notice of any open meeting of the Board before the Board's consideration of the agenda item, provided that such individuals follow the procedures and requirements stipulated in this policy.
Procedures and Requirements	Individuals who wish to participate during the portion of the meeting designated for public comment and public testimony shall timely register with the Superintendent or designee and shall abide by the registration and time limits stipulated in this policy. Registration shall be done prior to the Board meeting following one of the approved methods stated below.

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Registration
Methods and
Required
Information

Individuals must abide by the registration process available at the location of the meeting no later than 30 minutes prior to the Board meeting's posted start time. No individual shall be allowed to address the Board if the registration is not done timely as stipulated in this policy.

The person must deliver the following information at the time of registration:

1. The first and last name of the person wishing to comment;
2. Whether the topic is an agenda or non-agenda item;
3. The topic about which the person wishes to comment;
4. A brief statement of the oral address;
5. Whether English translation services are needed; and
6. Contact information.

Registered individuals must personally address the Board or otherwise forfeit their turn to address the Board. Registration cannot be transferred to another individual and/or speaker.

Timing of Speakers

Each individual member of the public who addresses the Board in the form of public comment or public testimony shall be allowed a maximum of three minutes to make the address. A member of the public who addresses the Board through a translator will be given a maximum of six minutes to address the Board. However, for public comment only, please note that delegations of more than five persons that wish to address the Board regarding the same non-agenda topic may appoint one person to present their comments to the Board. The presiding officer may make necessary time adjustments to manage the meeting effectively.

Public comment shall occur at the beginning of the meeting. Public testimony shall occur prior to or during the meeting but before the Board's consideration of that specific agenda item.

**Meeting
Management**

When necessary for effective meeting management and/or to accommodate large numbers of individuals wishing to address the Board, the presiding officer may make adjustments to public comment and/or public testimony procedures, including:

- Adjusting when public comment will occur during the meeting;
- Reordering agenda items;
- Designating a spokesperson to address non-agenda items to reduce the number of speakers;

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- Deferring public comment on non-agenda items;
- Continuing agenda items to a later meeting;
- Offering alternative ways to address the Board such as submitting written comments in lieu of spoken comments;
- Providing expanded opportunity for public comment and/or public testimony; or
- Establishing an overall time limit for public comment and adjusting the time allotted to each speaker.

However, no individual shall be given less than one minute to provide public testimony.

**Complaints and
Concerns**

The presiding officer or designee shall determine whether an individual addressing the Board has attempted to solve a matter administratively through resolution channels established by policy. If not, the individual shall be referred to the appropriate policy to seek resolution:

- Employee complaints: DGBA
- Student or parent complaints: FNG
- Public complaints: GF

Disruption

The Board shall not tolerate disruption of the meeting by members of the audience. If, after at least one warning from the presiding officer, any individual continues to disrupt the meeting by his or her words or actions, the presiding officer may request assistance from law enforcement officials to have the individual removed from the meeting. Persons attending Board meetings shall not engage in conduct that disrupts, interrupts, or causes delays in the proceedings of a Board meeting and shall obey the orders of the presiding officer. The Board President shall take such measures as may be necessary to ensure that decorum is preserved at all times during Board meetings.